

W.P. Holbrook, Ph.D.

wholbrok@rutgers.edu

AFRICAN CULTURAL RETENTIONS IN THE AMERICAS

Fall Term 2019

21:014:301

Office: 303 Conklin Hall

“African Cultural Retentions” is presented this term as a reading and writing intensive course focused on the continuities, transformations, adaptations, and re-inventions of African culture found within the African diaspora in the Americas since the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Research and writing projects conducted by historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, art historians, and musicologists will be studied. Lectures, readings, classroom discussions, and examination essays will explore developments in the Caribbean, Central and South America, and the United States. A documentary film series is incorporated; and a museum trip is also planned. Of course, in the Americas, Africans encountered Native Americans and Europeans; and a constant goal of this course is to enrich our understanding of the new local contexts which emerged, and Africa’s contributions to those contexts.

Student Requirements: Students are expected to attend each meeting of the class. A mid-term examination and a final examination are included as a part of the course calendar. A final paper (15 pages) is required. A list of suggested broad topics for the research paper will be provided. Narrowing and refinement of topics will occur in individual office sessions. The final paper is to be submitted on Tuesday, 3 December.

Books The following books have been ordered at the Rutgers Bookstore.

1. Melissa Cooper. MAKING GULLAH: A HISTORY OF SAPELO ISLANDERS, RACE, AND THE AMERICAN IMAGINATION. (Univ. of North Carolina Press)
2. Michael Gomez. EXCHANGING OUR COUNTRY MARKS: THE TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICAN IDENTITIES IN THE COLONIAL AND ANTE-BELLUM SOUTH. (Univ. of North Carolina Press)
3. Yaa Gyasi. HOME GOING.
4. James Sweet. RECREATING AFRICA. (University of North Carolina Press)
5. Jason R. Young. RITUALS OF RESISTANCE

Additional Readings: Students will be required to visit sites on the internet.

Office Hours: Thrs., 1:30-2:30 ; and at other times by appointment.